

**УКРАЇНА**



**UKRAINE**

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**Statement by the representative of Ukraine at the Third Committee of 70<sup>th</sup>  
session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, item 69: Rights of  
Indigenous Peoples  
19 October 2015, New York**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Delegation of Ukraine has the honour to align itself with the statement made by the European Union.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the Progress made in the implementation of the Outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was held in September 2014.

Ukraine is strongly committed to the implementation of the first World Conference outcome document. Having officially endorsed the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Ukraine has undertaken a number of practical steps on the national and local level in order to guarantee the promotion of the cultural, linguistic and religious rights of the indigenous peoples of Crimea, first of all the Crimean Tatars.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Occupation of Crimea has brought about the atmosphere of tension, aggression and intolerance in the territory of the peninsula. Over 10 thousand Crimean Tatars were forced to leave Crimea and settle mostly in other parts of continental Ukraine.

We would like to draw the particular attention to existing practices of occupation authorities in applying forced entry into citizenship, conducting moral, psychological, political pressure, politically motivated persecutions, kidnapping Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians and Peninsula residents who openly support Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, bans for entry towards Crimean Tatars' Mejlis leaders.

Leading international human rights organizations are alerting about the radical deterioration of the human rights situation with regards to Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in the occupied Crimea.

Numerous examples of their human rights violations, being conducted on a regular and systematic basis, are duly reflected in several recent documents - the Report by unofficial Turkish delegation based on the findings of its visit to Crimea last April, the OSCE Report of the Human Rights Assessment Mission on Crimea (last July) and the 11<sup>th</sup> Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights situation in Ukraine.

Number of systematic violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms are taking place, including restrictions of freedom of speech and assembly; creation of artificial obstacles in access to education and use of native language; lack of fair trial; real threats to life of Crimean Tatars.

Occupation authorities, disregarding the Crimean Tatars' status as the indigenous people of Crimea, constantly ignore all recommendations provided in above reports. Human rights violations and crimes against indigenous people in Crimea are not being properly investigated and those responsible are not brought to justice.

**Mr. Chairman,**

A separate report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and an international monitoring mission on the ground in Crimea are urgently required.

UN system has to play a leading role in stopping persistent acts of intimidation targeting Crimean Tatars, granting immediate access and constant presence of international organizations on the peninsula to monitor and prevent threats to security and lives of local residents, including Crimean Tatars.

We call upon the international community to increase its pressure on the Russian Federation in order to respect for international law and ensure protection of Crimean Tatars as indigenous people of Crimea, Ukraine.

By all legal means, we will continue to defend the rights of the Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians, suffering from repressive policy of the occupation authorities in Crimea.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**